

In recent years a substantial increase in the incidence of citrus fruit rots caused by *Alternaria* was observed. This may be due to the extensive and prolonged use of benzimidazole fungicides, which control various citrus pathogens, but are ineffective against *Alternaria*.

Screening of fungi isolated from buttons of healthy citrus fruits of different varieties, carried out during the last 3 years, revealed a yearly increase (up to 80%) in the occurrence of this fungus in the buttons.

No direct correlation was found between the frequency of occurrence of this fungus in the buttons and the incidence of *Aalternaria*-caused stem-end rots and internal rot that develop in the fruits during storage. The percentage of these rots was much lower (5-30%) but increased from year to year.

Different morphological forms of *Alternaria* were isolated from the decayed fruits and it is possible that they represent different species of the fungus.